

## MICRO-INVASIVE BREAST BIOPSY DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An apparatus for removing tissue and/or other material  
5 from a patient, particularly a breast of a patient, is  
provided. The apparatus generally includes a handpiece and  
a tissue removal mechanism connected thereto. The tissue  
removal mechanism includes a cannula having an open distal  
tip and an outer diameter of less than about 5 mm, or less  
10 than about 2 mm. The mechanism further includes a  
rotatable element having a distal portion with helical  
threading. The distal portion of the rotatable element  
extends beyond the open distal tip of the cannula in order  
15 to allow tissue to prolapse between turns of the helical  
threading. The apparatus is designed to draw soft tissue  
into the cannula upon rotation of the rotatable element and  
without the need for supplemental sources of aspiration.